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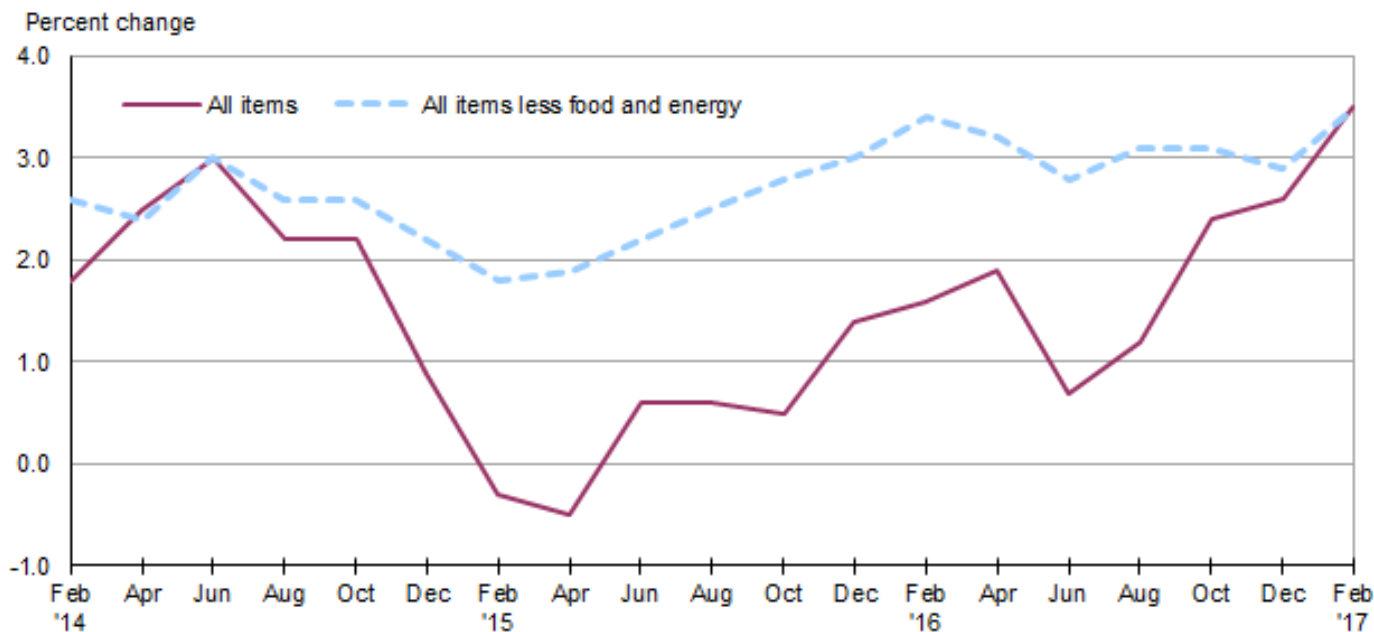
Consumer Price Index, Atlanta – February 2017

Area prices up 1.2 percent over the two months and 3.5 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Atlanta advanced 1.2 percent over the January-February pricing period, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the all items less food and energy index increased 1.5 percent and the energy index edged up 0.2 percent. The food index was unchanged during the January-February pricing period. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U increased 3.5 percent. The index for all items less food and energy also advanced 3.5 percent over the year reflecting price increases for shelter and medical care. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Atlanta, February 2014–February 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index was unchanged during the January-February pricing period. A 0.3-percent rise in the food at home index was largely offset by a 0.3-percent decline in food away from home index.

Over the year, the food index decreased 0.7 percent, reflecting a 2.5-percent decline in the food at home index. Since February 2016, the food away from home index advanced 1.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index edged up 0.2 percent during the January-February pricing period. Over the two months, the indexes for utility (piped) gas service and electricity increased 1.6 and 0.5 percent, respectively. In contrast, the index for motor fuel declined 0.5 percent.

Over the year, the energy index advanced 13.1 percent, led by a 31.0-percent sharp rise in motor fuel prices—its largest 12-month increase since September 2011. Since February 2016, utility (piped) gas service prices rose 11.1 percent, while electricity prices fell 3.5 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.5 percent during the January-February pricing period as increases were recorded for shelter (1.2 percent), medical care (3.4 percent), and apparel (3.8 percent).

From February 2016 to February 2017, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.5 percent—led by increases for shelter (5.5 percent) and medical care (7.4 percent).

Table A. Atlanta CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February	1.9	2.1	1.3	1.8	0.0	-0.3	0.3	1.6	1.2	3.5
April	0.1	1.1	0.8	2.5	0.7	-0.5	1.0	1.9		
June	1.0	1.4	1.5	3.0	2.5	0.6	1.3	0.7		
August	0.7	1.5	-0.1	2.2	-0.1	0.6	0.5	1.2		
October	-1.0	1.6	-1.1	2.2	-1.2	0.5	-0.1	2.4		
December	-0.2	2.4	-1.5	0.9	-0.6	1.4	-0.4	2.6		

The Consumer Price Index for March 2017 is scheduled to be released on Friday, April 14, 2017.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Atlanta, Ga.** metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties in Georgia.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Atlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	Feb. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	226.739	-	229.493	3.5	1.2	-
All items (1967=100)	683.776	-	692.079	-	-	-
Food and beverages	248.549	-	248.679	-0.6	0.1	-
Food	259.160	-	259.219	-0.7	0.0	-
Food at home	242.843	243.542	243.554	-2.5	0.3	0.0
Food away from home.....	285.554	-	284.641	1.7	-0.3	-
Alcoholic beverages	153.844	-	154.606	0.9	0.5	-
Housing	226.670	-	229.104	4.7	1.1	-
Shelter	248.998	250.597	252.104	5.5	1.2	0.6
Rent of primary residence(1).....	254.752	256.121	258.199	6.6	1.4	0.8
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	243.571	245.005	246.556	5.7	1.2	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	243.571	245.005	246.556	5.7	1.2	0.6
Fuels and utilities.....	270.820	-	272.609	0.1	0.7	-
Household energy	229.513	232.716	231.329	0.1	0.8	-0.6
Energy Services(1).....	228.093	231.280	229.883	0.0	0.8	-0.6
Electricity(1).....	197.311	198.249	198.249	-3.5	0.5	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	266.669	277.211	271.048	11.1	1.6	-2.2
Household furnishings and operations.....	123.142	-	122.986	3.2	-0.1	-
Apparel	136.525	-	141.676	-2.2	3.8	-
Transportation	189.143	-	191.422	7.5	1.2	-
Private transportation	188.229	-	190.920	8.4	1.4	-
Motor fuel	197.842	202.635	196.879	31.0	-0.5	-2.8
Gasoline (all types).....	196.619	201.323	195.515	31.1	-0.6	-2.9
Unleaded regular(3)	192.592	197.218	191.462	31.8	-0.6	-2.9
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	245.030	249.728	244.156	28.8	-0.4	-2.2
Unleaded premium(3).....	213.033	218.249	212.191	25.3	-0.4	-2.8
Medical Care	441.391	-	456.506	7.4	3.4	-
Recreation(5).....	84.906	-	86.807	-0.2	2.2	-
Education and communication(5).....	134.383	-	134.929	-0.6	0.4	-
Other goods and services	366.978	-	369.183	1.4	0.6	-
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	226.739	-	229.493	3.5	1.2	-
Commodities	175.059	-	176.197	2.7	0.7	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	142.217	-	143.767	5.2	1.1	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	174.760	-	177.901	9.6	1.8	-
Durables	108.487	-	108.436	-1.2	0.0	-
Services.....	275.531	-	279.739	4.0	1.5	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	215.381	-	217.555	3.2	1.0	-
All items less shelter.....	221.453	-	224.104	2.5	1.2	-
Commodities less food	142.283	-	143.796	5.0	1.1	-
Nondurables	206.761	-	208.515	3.9	0.8	-
Nondurables less food.....	171.978	-	174.914	8.9	1.7	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	320.482	-	326.344	2.3	1.8	-
Services less medical care services.....	258.639	-	262.124	3.9	1.3	-
Energy	194.194	197.881	194.517	13.1	0.2	-1.7
All items less energy	229.999	-	232.995	2.8	1.3	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Atlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	Feb. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017
All items less food and energy	225.831	-	229.298	3.5	1.5	-

Footnotes(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.